

The Adams family had tie to Green Bay

As soon as she arrived in the outpost settlement of Green Bay, Mrs. Harriet Boyd enjoyed the certain prominence of a woman.

She was, after all, the sister-in-law of former President John Quincy Adams, who served from 1825 to 1829.

Harriet's husband, Colonel George Boyd, the local Indian agent, was transferred from his post at Mackinac to Green Bay on June 2, 1832.

The Agency House, located on the east bank of the Fox River during the incumbency of Col. Boyd and his large family, became a social center of sorts in the community.

The Colonel had eight sons and one daughter, Catherine, which made the Boyd home a favorite gathering place for the youth of the settlement.

The Boyds settled at Shantytown, now the Allouez area. Mrs. Boyd was the sister of Mrs. John Quincy Adams, Louise Catherine Johnson Adams (1775-1852).

The Boyd family remained in the Green Bay area as it continued to grow. Col. Boyd died in 1846. His will, filed in Brown County, left his estate to his wife. After his wife Harriet's death in 1850, the household inventory was sold at auction except for one secretary which was marked "save" and not sold.

That secretary is reputed to be the



Throughout this year of Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial celebration, the Press-Gazette will publish a series of stories on local history. This feature, prepared with the assistance of the Brown County Historical Society, will appear on Mondays.



desk that belonged to John Quincy Adams. It was purchased by the Green Bay-De Pere Antiquarian Society in 1994 and is placed at Hazelwood, which was the home of Morgan L. Martin

and family.

The portrait of Mrs. Boyd, which accompanies this story, was purchased by the Green Bay-De Pere Antiquarian Society in 1958 from Mr. David Twells. David was the son of Rachel Marie Grignon Twells (1873-1950.) Rachel's great grandmother was Harriet Johnson Boyd. Rachel was also a descendant of Charles De Langlade (1729-1800). His sister was Catherine Ann (Kitty) Grignon (1893-1957).

In 1958, the portrait was placed in the De Langlade Music Room in the Officer's Quarters, formally called the scullery, at the Fort Howard building. That building was located on the west side of Green Bay until it was moved to become part of Heritage Hill State Historical Park in the 1970s.

The portrait, along with other local historical artifacts that are owned by the Green Bay-De Pere Antiquarian Society are part of the Antiquarian Sesquicentennial Exhibit now open at the Neville Public Museum.

(Submitted by Carol Jones, Brown County Historical Society, Green Bay-De Pere Antiquarian Society. If you would like to submit an article in celebration of the Sesquicentennial Year contact the Brown County Historical Society at 437-1840.)



Photo courtesy of Green Bay De Pere Antiquarian Society

From our past: This portrait of Mrs. Harriet Johnson Boyd is now on display at the Neville Public Museum. Mrs. Boyd was the sister-in-law of John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States. The painting was once on display at the White House, according to old Fort Howard records.